

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from the re-writable data carriers.  
each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to  
answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means; and  
calculating means for calculating the charge using the read data and displaying the  
charge.

2. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a  
charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

input means for inputting data to be used to calculate a charge; and

writing means for writing the data in at least two re-writable data carriers each of which  
is attached to a container of a dish or drink and each of the re-writable data carriers entering a  
state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the writing means after  
communicating with the writing means.

3. (TWICE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 2, wherein said  
writing means writes one of a kind and price of the dish or drink in the data carriers.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 2, further  
comprising:

measuring means for measuring a weight of the dish or drink, wherein

said writing means writes one of a measured weight and a price corresponding to the  
measured weight in the data carriers.

5. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish and drink selected by a customer, comprising:

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from at least two re-writable data carriers attached to a container of one or more dishes or drinks selected by the customer, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means and

calculating means for calculating the charge using the read data.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, wherein the data carriers are attached to the bottom of the container, and

said reading means reads the data collectively from the data carrier of one or more containers placed on a tray.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, wherein said reading means reads price data of said dish or drink from the data carriers, and

said calculating means adds up the price data of each dish or drink, and calculates the charge for the one or more dishes or drinks.

8. (TWICE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, wherein said reading means reads data indicating a kind of said dish or drink from the data carriers, and

said calculating means includes an output means for outputting a kind of the dishes or drinks selected by the customer together with the charge for the dishes or drinks.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 5, further comprising

storing means for storing a correspondence relation between a kind and a price of each dish or drink, wherein

said reading means reads data indicating a kind of said dish or drink from the data carriers, and

said calculating means obtains price data corresponding to the kind data of each dish or drink referring to the correspondence relation, adds up the price data of each dish or drink, and calculates the charge for the one or more dishes or drinks.

10. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A container used in connection with reading means for reading data for an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

means for holding the dish or drink; and

at least two re-writable data carrier means for selectively recording data to be used to calculate the charge, each of the re-writable data carrier means being attached to a container of the dish or the drink and entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means.

11. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A calorie calculating system for automatically calculating calories of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of one or more

dishes or drinks selected by the customer, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means; and

calculating means for calculating calories of the one or more dishes or drinks using read data and displaying the calories.

12. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for goods selected by a customer, comprising:

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of one or more items of goods selected by the customer, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means; and

calculating means for calculating the charge for the one or more items of goods using read data and displaying the charge.

13. (TWICE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein the one or more items of goods are arranged flatly so that directions of the attached re-writable data carriers are the same, and said reading means reads the data collectively from the re-writable data carriers of the one or more goods arranged flatly.

14. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with a program for controlling a computer, the program comprising:

inputting data to be used to calculate a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer; and

writing the data in at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of the dish or drink, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from a reading means after communicating with the reading means.

15. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with a program for controlling a computer, the program comprising:

reading data in a non-contact state from at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of one or more dishes or drinks selected by a customer, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a period of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from a reading means after communicating with the reading means;

calculating a charge for the one or more dishes or drinks using the read data; and  
displaying the charge.

16. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A charging method for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

writing data in at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of a dish or drink;

reading data in a non-contact state from the data carriers of one or more dishes or drinks selected by the customer, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting

a predetermined period after to answer an inquiry from a reading means after communicating with a reading means;

calculating said charge using read data; and

displaying said charge.

17. (TWICE AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

a writing unit writing data in at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being formed as part of a container of a dish or drink;

a reading unit reading data in a non-contact state from the re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading unit after communicating with the reading unit; and

a calculating unit calculating the charge using the read data and displaying the charge.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 17, wherein each of the selectively re-writable data carriers are adhered to the container of the dish or drink.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) The charging system according to claim 17, wherein each of the selectively re-writable data carriers is embedded within the container of the dish or drink.

20. (TWICE AMENDED) A container used in connection with reading means for reading data for automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

tableware to hold the dish or drink; and

at least two re-writable data carriers to record data to be used to calculate the charge, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of the dish or drink, and each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink according to claim 20, wherein each of said selectively re-writable data carriers further comprises:

an antenna;

a voltage generator circuit to provide power to said data carrier in response to electromotive force received from the antenna; and

a memory unit to record the data to be used to calculate the charge.

22. (ONCE AMENDED) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink according to claim 21, wherein each of said selectively re-writable data carriers further comprises:

a modulator/demodulator to communicate modulated data between the antenna with the memory unit.

23. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A container used in connection with reading means for reading data for an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

tableware to hold the dish or drink;

at least two re-writable data carriers to record data to be used to calculate the charge, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of the dish or drink, and each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the reading means after communicating with the reading means.

24. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) The container used in an automatic calculation of a charge of a dish or drink comprising:

an antenna;

a memory;

communication control logic to record data in at least two re-writable data carriers to be used to calculate the charge in said memory, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of the dish or the drink, and

a voltage generator circuit to provide power to said memory and said communication control logic in response to electromotive force received from said antenna,

each of the re-writable data carriers entering a state of waiting a predetermined period to answer an inquiry from the communication control logic after communicating with the communication control logic.

#### **REMARKS**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-24 have been amended. Claims 1-25 are pending and under consideration.